

Message Text

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15

ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

/096 R

DRAFTED BY EB/OT/GCP:ELWILLIAMS

APPROVED BY EB/OT/GCP:DTMORRISON

STR:AGARLAND (SUBS)

COMMERCE:DGARDNER (SUBS)

ARA/NC:JMAISTO (SUBS)

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P R 170535Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, CO

SUBJECT: GATT WP ON COLOMBIAN PROVISIONAL ACCESSION

REFS: (A) STATE 84233, (B) BOGOTA 3393, (C) GENEVA 2550

1. WE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED RAPID AND INFORMATIVE
REPORTING FROM BOGOTA AND GENEVA IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
RAISED REFTEL (A) CONCERNING COLOMBIAN TRADE REGIME.

2. RE SO-CALLED DEVELOPMENT SURCHARGE (CUOTAS DE
FOMENTO), WE CONTINUE TO VIEW THIS PARTICULAR LEVY AS A
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TAX ON IMPORTS--DESPITE AMBASSADOR JARAMILLO'S DISCLAIMER

TO THE CONTRARY--AND BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE ACKNOWLEDGED AS SUCH BY GOC IN DUE COURSE. HOWEVER, WE ARE NOT INCLINED AT THIS STAGE OF WORKING PARTY EXAMINATION TO PRESS COLOMBIANS ON THIS POINT, ALTHOUGH WE MAY WISH TO DO SO LATER ON IN THE ACCESSION PROCESS. FOR EXAMPLE, WE MIGHT WANT TO ENCOURGE COLOMBIANS TO REGULARIZE SURCHARGE BY INCORPORATING IT IN EXISTING TARIFF STRUCTURE.

3. IN ANY CASE, GIVEN TRADE IMPACT OF SURCHARGE (WHICH, AS NOTED EMBASSY BOGOTA, IS SIGNIFICANT WHEN COMBINED WITH ADDITIONAL 2.5 PERCENT LEVY FOR COFFEE PROMOTION AND CONSULAR INVOICE FEE), IT WOULD APPEAR TO OUR ADVANTAGE IN ACCESSION PROCEEDINGS TO HAVE SURCHARGE OUT IN THE OPEN, CLEARLY IDENTIFIED AS A NEGOTIABLE TRADE BARRIER. KISSINGER

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Drafter: ELWILLIAMS
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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